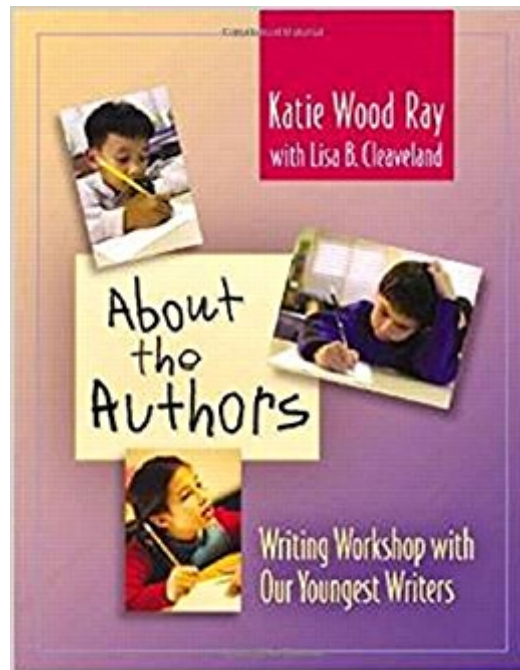




The book was found

About The Authors: Writing Workshop With Our Youngest Writers



Synopsis

About the Authors is about the littlest authors - those in kindergarten through second grade. Based on a profound understanding of the ways in which young children learn, it shows teachers how to launch a writing workshop by inviting children to do what they do naturally - make stuff. So why not write books? Gifted educator and author of the best-selling *What You Know by Heart* (Heinemann, 2002), Katie Wood Ray has seen young authors do just that. And she wants your students to be able to do the same. Beautifully describing young children in the act of learning, she demonstrates what it takes to nourish writing right from the start: a supportive environment that enables even the youngest students to write respect and sensitivity to the way children really learn inviting instruction that both encourages and elevates young writers rich language that stimulates writing classroom talk and children's literature that energize young writers developmental considerations that shape the structure of the workshop, making it natural, joyful, and absolutely appropriate. What's more, Ray explains step by step how to set up and maintain a primary writing workshop, detailing eleven units of study that cover idea generation, text structures, different genres, and illustrations that work with text. She also draws on data, projects, and the language of teaching used in the classroom of first-grade teacher Lisa Cleaveland. Ray allows readers to "listen in" to Lisa as she helps her young students learn from professional writers, work with intention, and think about their own process. Chockfull of examples of little books by young children, *About the Authors* is proof positive that a primary writing workshop is a smart writing move.

Book Information

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Language: English

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Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Customer Reviews

As indicated by the title, this book is about using writing workshops with students in kindergarten through second grade. Although writing is the point of these workshops, the students are not asked to just write anything. The workshops provide a specific goal for students: to make stuff, more specifically to make and write books. The authors thoroughly describe the hour long writing workshops, functions, and teaching opportunities that are typical of an average workshop. Rich examples of the authors' experiences, along with samples of students' work are used throughout each chapter to further develop the objectives of the writing workshops and provide inspirational ideas to readers. The chapters themselves are organized into three sections, adding structure for the many components of the workshop. The first section, titled Building a Strong Foundation, describes why writing workshops are beneficial to the improvement of students' writing; their complex operations; and the importance of avoiding the isolation of writing to the workshops through daily integration. The explanations for utilizing such a writing program make perfect sense to anyone who has ever worked with young children. Making stuff is developmentally appropriate and helps students take ownership and invest themselves in their work. To take it further, making books helps students read and even live like writers. Then, when students are saturated with writing and learning about language all day long, during the elaborate functions of the writing workshop and through the integration of writing, they don't even notice because they have a purpose and are having fun. According to Katie and Lisa, all of this shows in their wonderful approximations that they call books.

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